



**DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION**  
of Central Oklahoma

# Upcoming News & Events

## Bi-Monthly Meeting

When: Saturday, March 5, 2005 - 10:00AM to Noon

Where: Integris Baptist Medical Center (Bennett Room)  
Childcare to be in Room H

Topic: Changing Lives presented by Juanita Killingsworth and Team

RSVP: For childcare to Sharon Domek no later than March 1, 2005  
(405) 945-4523

The "Changing Lives" presentation provides information about Down syndrome and key factors that contributes to the health and well being of people with Down syndrome and their families. The challenge is getting this information into the hands of those who need it most - new parents and the health care professionals who work with them.

- Educate health care professionals on the medical and developmental needs of babies with Down syndrome and the best care practices to address them.
- Equip health care professionals with practical tools for communicating a Down syndrome diagnosis and other sensitive information to new parents.
- Inform health care professionals about the potential of individuals with Down syndrome.
- Educate health care professionals and parents on the local and national resources available to new parents of babies with Down syndrome.
- Provide health care professionals with materials and resources to share with new and expectant parents of babies with Down syndrome.
- Form and strengthen on-going relationships between health care professionals and parents.

Come join us as we learn about the program that represents DSACO and is being used with our health professionals, and also learn how to use this material in sharing with new families and professionals.

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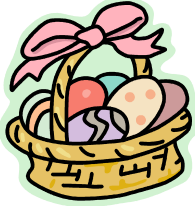
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Disclaimer: The Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma does not promote, recommend or endorse any service, professional or organization. Decisions regarding use of any service, professional or organization are the sole responsibility of the family and/or caregiver (s).

## Chapter Planning/Board Meeting

**When:** April 14, 2005  
7:00PM to 8:30PM  
**Where:** Integris Baptist Medical Center  
Room To Be Announced

All parents, caregivers and those interested in promoting awareness and acceptance of individuals with Down syndrome are encouraged to attend.



## Easter Eggstravaganza!!!

**When:** Saturday, March 19, 2005  
11:00AM to 2:00PM  
**Where:** MD Building Products Employee Park  
Corner of Britton and Sooner Road



Please join us for the 2nd Annual DSACO Easter Egg Hunt. There will be over 1000 eggs to hunt!!! And some will be prize eggs!!!

We will have a hot dog luncheon after the hunt and a special guest appearance by the Easter Bunny. Parents are requested to bring one package of cookies, brownies, etc., for the desert table. Parents - - Don't forget your camera!

Please RSVP to Lori Wathen by March 11, 2005 at (405) 329-8185 or [wathenl@mdteam.com](mailto:wathenl@mdteam.com). We will need to know how many are attending and what the children's ages are for prize considerations. Everyone had a great time last year and this year's event will be even better!

## Parent-to-Parent Sharing Meetings

### North

North - No Meeting for March

North - Saturday, April 16, 2005, from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. Location - Church of the Servant, 14343 N. MacArthur Blvd. RSVP No later than April 7, 2005.

Childcare provided by RSVP only. For information about topics of discussion or childcare contact Kevin and Becky Moore at 580-336-2773 or via email at [mooreorless616@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mooreorless616@sbcglobal.net)

### South

South - No Meeting for March

South - Tuesday, April 19, 2005, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.. Location - First Baptist Church of Moore, 301 NE 27th Street. RSVP No later than April 14, 2005..

Childcare provided by RSVP only. For information about topics of discussion or childcare contact Lori Wathen at 405-329-8185 or via email at [wathenl@mdteam.com](mailto:wathenl@mdteam.com).

## Bountiful Blessings Calendar Update

The 2006 *Bountiful Blessings* calendar committee has gotten started in evaluating the profiles that were sent in. The committee will be sending out letters to all the parents that sent in profiles within the next month. More information concerning the calendar process will be coming in the following months.

If you have any check(s) to turn in for the 2005 Bountiful Blessings Calendar sales, please send them to me as soon as possible. Please make sure not to mail cash.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call or email me.

Tami Arambula, Calendar Committee Chair

1321 Craig Drive ~ Piedmont, OK 73078 ~ (405) 373-2854 or tamira@netzero.net



### Special Olympics Summer Games

Special Olympics Summer Games will be May 11 - May 13, 2005 in Stillwater. Opening Ceremonies will be Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 8pm-10pm on the south side of the stadium.

Registration packets for the Under-8, Stars of the Future (athletes ages 4-7) will be available March 1. Entries must be received by April 15<sup>th</sup>! For more information, contact Jean Ann at [jeanann@sook.org](mailto:jeanann@sook.org) or Cathi Morris at [cathi@sook.org](mailto:cathi@sook.org). Both may be reached at 1-800-722-9004.

### DSACO Day at Johnnie's!

Don't forget DSACO Day at Johnnie's in the metro area. Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler has designated the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Tuesday of each month as DSACO Day. All you have to do is eat at Johnnie's on the third Tuesday and tell them you are with DSACO when you are placing your order. The following month DSACO will receive a check for a percentage of all sales that were designated as DSACO sales.

It's easy! So remind everyone that wants to help raise money for DSACO!

### 2005 Outstanding Educator of the Year Award

It is time again to honor those that educate our children. The DSACO's Annual Outstanding Educator of the Year Award will be chosen in April. Any professional educator who works directly with people with Down syndrome in an educational setting, in the DSACO geographic area, is eligible. Nominees can be currently working in regular and/or special education. They should have a sincere interest in educating all children with disabilities. Experience, educational, professional/community involvement and teaching philosophy are all criteria, which will be considered by the Award Committee. If you know a great educator that you would like to nominate, please fill out the nomination form. Send the nomination form and all supporting documentation to Jennifer Joy by March 31, 2005.

Please mail the attached Nomination Form to:

Jennifer Joy

116 Bellgate Drive ~ Yukon OK 73099

If you have any questions or comments please contact Jennifer at (405)324-6930 or [joyj@mustangps.org](mailto:joyj@mustangps.org)

# Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma

## 2005 Outstanding Educator of the Year Award

### Nomination Form

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The Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma's Annual Outstanding Educator of the Year Award will be chosen in April. Any professional educator who works directly with people with Down syndrome in an educational setting, in the DSACO geographic area, is eligible. Nominees can be currently working in regular and/or special education. They should have a sincere interest in educating all children with disabilities. Experience, educational, professional/community involvement and teaching philosophy are all criteria, which will be considered by the Award Committee. The following completed form and a 50-100 word essay describing why this educator should receive this award must be returned to Jennifer Joy by **March 31, 2005**.

Prior nominees may be nominated again.

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

School Name and District: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe nominee's background/qualifications: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe nominee's professional/community involvement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe nominee's philosophy of education and approach to teaching students with disabilities:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please attach letters of recommendation written by parent(s), principal, students, and/or supervisor.

Nomination made by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Return form and all supporting documentation to: Jennifer Joy, 116 Bellgate Drive, Yukon, Oklahoma 73099 by **March 31, 2005**. Questions?: Contact Jennifer at 324-6930 or joyj@mustangps.org



Jacob Brooks



## 1st Annual Jacob's "Buddies" Charity Golf Tournament

When: Saturday, April 30, 2005

Where: Cimarron National Golf Club - the Aqua Canyon Course

Time: 7:30 Arrival  
8:00 Tee Off

Fee: \$75.00 Entry Fee per Player  
Includes Green Fees, Cart Rental, Range Balls, Lunch & T-Shirt



See [www.DSACO.org](http://www.DSACO.org)  
for more details!



- First Place
- Second Place
- Last Place
- Closest to Pin
- Longest Drive

- Brand New 2005 Chevrolet Avalanche
- 4 day/3 night Golf Trip to Puerto Rico
- 36 Dozen Nike Mojo Golf Balls
- Or a Nike Driver
- All Donated by Marc Heitz Chevrolet

Tons of Door Prizes and Terrific Prizes to be given out. Raffle for a 2 night stay and a round of golf from the Oklahoma Parks and Recreation Department as well as some sports memorabilia (more raffles coming!) We are looking for more teams and players as well as Hole Sponsorships (Personal Messages and Company Sponsorship Signs available at Hole for sponsorship fee \$100).

For more information concerning the Golf Tournament or for a Registration Flyer, please contact Marie Brooks (405)366-1198 or Kerri Brooks (405)307-9207.

It is going to be a day of Fun, Golf and fellowship to raise money for \*DSACO and awareness for people with Down syndrome! The tournament is for everyone beginners and experienced alike.

\*Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma (DSAC) is a non-profit organization, to help promote understanding and acceptance of people with Down syndrome. Your contribution will support programs and awareness on the local level for research, education and advocacy efforts towards Down syndrome.

## Community Forums about Developmental Disabilities Services

The Center for Learning and Leadership, in conjunction with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Developmental Disabilities Services Division (DDSD), is conducting public forums in different locations around the state. The forums are for adults with developmental disabilities, their families, families of children with developmental disabilities, service providers, and interested others.

The forums are informal meetings where you can give your opinion or ask questions about services for people with developmental disabilities. The forums start by asking the audience two questions about DDSD services: "What's working?" and "What's not working?" There will also be a discussion about Self-Directed Services and a new Medicaid program, TEFRA, targeted to begin later this year.

Forum dates, times, and locations are listed below. Sandwiches or pizza and soft drinks will be provided. For more information about the forums, call Doris Erhart or Vyonda Martin at the Center for Learning and Leadership at 1-800-627-6827, extension 41006 or 41005.

Town	Date	Time	Location
<b>Stillwater</b>	Friday, March 11, 2005	11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Stillwater Public Library Room 202
<b>Ponca City</b>	Thursday, March 31, 2005	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Ponca City Public Library Program Room 515 East Grand
<b>Enid</b>	Friday, April 1, 2005	11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Northwestern OK State University - Room 131 2929 East Randolph
<b>Duncan</b>	Thursday, April 14, 2005	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Red River Technology Center - Room 21 3300 West Bois D' Arc
<b>Durant</b>	Monday, April 18, 2005	6:00 p.m. - 7:30p.m.	Robert L. Williams Public Library Utterback Room 323 West Beech
<b>Atoka</b>	Tuesday, April 19, 2005	11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Kiamichi Technology Center Industrial A 1301 West Liberty Road

## DSACO's Lending Library

DSACO is organizing a lending library for the benefit of our parents. This library will consist of books, tapes, movies, or other materials that are helpful in addressing Down syndrome issues.

If you have books, tapes, movies or other materials you feel our families would enjoy or benefit from, or if you like to suggest an item for the library, please call Marji Robison at (405) 691-4560.



## Newsletter Information

If anyone would like to share your story, inspirational piece or just have something to share. Please contact Kerri Brooks, DSACO Newsletter Coordinator and we will see about getting you "published".

Kerri Brooks (405) 307-9207 or mail to 1608 Heron Drive, Norman OK 73071

## Pictures Needed!

DSACO would like to request pictures of our kids and family members with Down syndrome for the DSACO web site! We want to continue to put them in our Photo Album on the Web!

If you have any questions, or for a consent form, please do not hesitate to email me at [ckjbrooks@msn.com](mailto:ckjbrooks@msn.com) or contact me via DSACO's phone number (405)330-5025.

Please mail your pictures and consent form in hard copy to:

## Spanish Speaking Mom's Group

Spanish speaking Moms Group will meet on Monday, March 7, 2005 from 5:30pm - 7:30pm at 3401 NW 15<sup>th</sup> St., Oklahoma City, OK.

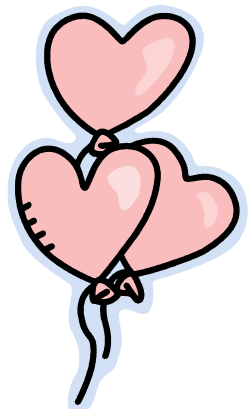
If you plan on attending, please contact Eli, Sooner Start Spanish Interpreter, at (405) 528-3061. This group is for all Spanish speaking moms or anyone interested in attending to share parent to parent information.



## Job Well Done!

DSACO wanted to take this opportunity to Congratulate Lisa Hancock and the Valentine Banquet Committee on a Job Well Done! The food was terrific, the music was fun and everyone had a great time. This was the second year for our Valentine Banquet for the Teens and Adults, it was bigger, had more participants and everyone can't wait until next year's. Thank you to all who came out to share a night of fun and entertainment with DSACO.

Everyone keep you eyes out for the next Teen/Adult event to be held. We will provide more information as it is available. Thanks again Lisa for a Job Well Done!





## DSACO's Calendar of Events

### MARCH

- 5 Bi-Monthly Meeting
- 19 Easter Eggstravaganza!!!

### APRIL

- 14 Chapter Planning/Board Meeting
- 16 Parent to Parent/North
- 19 Parent to Parent/South
- 30 1st Annual Jacob's Buddies Golf Tournament  
to benefit DSACO - Cimarron National Golf  
Course - Guthrie, OK

### MAY

- 14 Bi-Monthly Meeting
- 17 Parent to Parent/South
- 21 Parent to Parent/North

### JUNE

- 9 Chapter Planning/Board Meeting
- 18 Parent to Parent/North
- 21 Parent to Parent/South

### JULY

- 7-10 NDSS National Conference—Chicago
- 16 Parent to Parent/North
- 19 Parent to Parent/South
- 23 Bi-Monthly Meeting
- 29-31 NDSC National Convention  
Anaheim

### AUGUST

- 11 Chapter Planning/Board Meeting
- 16 Parent to Parent/South
- 20 Parent to Parent/North

### SEPTEMBER

- 9-10 Bell Cow Bike Rally (Benefit Rally/Campout  
to benefit DSACO  
Will be held at Bell Cow Lake - Chandler, OK
- 24 Buddy Walk - Location and Details to be  
Announced

### OCTOBER

- 13 Chapter Planning/Board Meeting
- 15 Parent to Parent/North
- 18 Parent to Parent/South

### NOVEMBER

- 10 Chapter Planning/Board Meeting
- 15 Parent to Parent/South
- 19 Bi-Monthly Meeting

### DECEMBER

- 2 Deck the Halls with DSACO

\* All Dates are Subject to Change

# "A Different Kind of Hero"

By Jennifer Hancock

An Expectant mother reads to the baby  
She carries in her womb; dreaming of the day  
She will be able to cradle the infant in her arms  
For the first time.

As the day she's been anticipating for  
Nine months arrives, the mother can't help  
But sense something must be wrong.  
She concludes it must be anxiety And fears nothing more.

Struggling with the last push, the mother  
Gives it her all, and instantly Her miracle is born.  
Relieved that the pain is over, the Mother can't wait to  
Hold her newborn.

Unaware of the perplexed look on  
The doctor's face, the mother is  
Overwhelmed with the sight of her  
New baby boy.

After cuddling her joy for a few moments,  
The mother's instinct begins to kick in.

She sees the look in the doctor's eyes, and  
Knows it concerns her child.

Within a matter of moments,  
The mother discovers something that will  
Change her life forever.

Her precious gift from God was Born with Down syndrome.  
Not knowing what to think The mother feels devastated.  
She had such dreams and plans for her child  
Now she doesn't know what the future will hold.

That evening, the mother prays and ask God for answers.  
All I've ever wanted was a normal baby, she says,  
Why me?  
Why was I given this burden to bear?

After she vents her frustrations, she begins to find  
Courage deep within herself.  
From that moment on, she knew the journey that God had  
In store for her wouldn't be easy, but he chose her for it.

Now she must carry on and nurture her child.  
Each day brought something new for the mother and her son  
With every obstacle, together, they'd find a way  
To overcome them.

Before the mother knew it, her son was reading to her  
The very same story  
She read to him when he was in her womb.  
This brought tears to the mother's eyes.  
The son gently wiped the tears from her eyes, and said,  
"Don't cry mom, smile, be happy"

From that day forward, the mother realized the  
Possibilities were endless for her child.

Nothing made her more proud than when her son  
Won his very first Special Olympics gold medal.  
With a huge smile, he brilliantly displayed the  
Shiny souvenir around his neck for placing  
First in the 50 meter dash.

The mother was given a bountiful blessing.  
Her son showed her that she could  
Persevere through adversity, just like he does with the  
Challenges he faces on a daily basis.

God gave the mother a "different kind of hero", and in  
Return she became one herself.

## Note from the President

I hope that everyone has had a great start to the 2005 year and is looking forward to the things to come. We attended the Annual valentines Banquet and had a fantastic time with everyone. I would like to thank all of the people who volunteered their time and efforts to help in making sure that everyone had a great time. I think by all the smiles that I saw that night I can definitely say that everyone was enjoying themselves. Everyone was dressed for the occasion and ready to show off a few new moves on the dance floor.

March will bring another event that the organization is sponsoring which is the Eggstravaganza for Easter. I hope that everyone will be able to attend this fun time to be had by all young and old. We will have food, Easter egg hunt, games and more for everyone to participate in. This will be on March 19<sup>th</sup> so everyone mark their calendar and plan to attend. Please do not forget that we have our Parent -To- Parent meetings each month and our meetings for planning all of these events. Please look for the calendars that we will have in the letter and the meetings that you attend. This will help you keep up on everything that is going on in the organization.

*Shaun Joy, DSACO President*



3366 N. W. Expressway, Suite 330  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112